



FIREFIGHTER

CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

(NFPA 1001 2008 Edition)

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FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION BACKGROUND

In the 1970's, fire service agencies in Alaska requested that Fire Service Training create a Firefighter I training and certification program for use throughout the state. The program was based on a NFPA referenced standard that would allow local departments to become accredited by Fire Service training and conduct in house training and testing that would result in individual state certification for Firefighter I. In the 1980's Fire Service Training expanded the program to include Firefighter II.

In the early 1990's Fire Service Training began to administer all firefighter written examinations, but fire service agencies continued to conduct the practical exam testing at the local level. By 2000, Fire Service Training conducted all practical and written examinations for firefighter certification with state endorsed Certifying Officers. In 2001, the Alaska Fire Standards Council ([AFSC](#)) was formed to provide oversight to fire service standards and certification process and assist the Fire Service Training office in achieving International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAC](#)) accreditation for firefighter certification directives.

In 2005 Fire Service Training was renamed the Training and Education Bureau ([TEB](#)), and continued to oversee all fire service certification testing until the AFSC administrative office took over the responsibility in 2008. In 2012 the AFSC became accredited by the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board ([ProBoard](#)). Currently, firefighter training programs are still conducted at the local level through training programs accredited by the TEB and AFSC offices, but the AFSC conducts all final practical and written certification examinations in accordance with the AFSC [Certification Policy Manual](#).

FIREFIGHTER DIRECTIVES OVERVIEW

The Firefighter certification directive is based on industry standards and was developed to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to attain knowledge and skills for firefighting activities. The directive is referenced to [NFPA 1001](#), Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, and is intended to provide a standard level of firefighter training through a credible certification program.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council ([AFSC](#)) Firefighter I & II certification levels are accredited through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAC](#)) and the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board ([ProBoard](#)). Training for either level is typically available through AFSC/TEB accredited fire department programs.

For Firefighter I and II certifications, individuals must meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

- 1) Firefighter course specific to the level of certification;
- 2) Practical (JPR) requirements specific to the level of certification;
- 3) Successful completion of the AFSC Firefighter written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

A written examination is administered to ensure applicants have met the requisite knowledge requirements within the NFPA standard. Certification for Firefighter I and II is also available through a reciprocity process.

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

FIREFIGHTER I

- a. applicant must be at least 18 years of age, and;
- b. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- c. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Firefighter I course and;
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written Firefighter I exam with a minimum score of 70%.
- e. Complete a Hazardous Materials Operations (NFPA 1001, 5.1) course and successfully complete the certification examination (NFPA 472, Chapters 4 & 5).

Note: The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years of application date and must meet NFPA 1001 core requirements.*

FIREFIGHTER II

- a. applicant must be an AFSC certified Firefighter I;
- b. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- c. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Firefighter II course and;
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written Firefighter II exam with a minimum score of 70%.

Note: The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years of application date and must meet NFPA 1001 core requirements.*

FIREFIGHTER COURSES

To be eligible to take the certification exam for Firefighter I or II, applicants must have completed a TEB approved training course. Training courses are offered through TEB, or, through fire department training programs that have been accredited by TEB before the course start date. In reference to NFPA 1001, 2008 edition, the Firefighter I course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements for chapter 5, and the Firefighter II course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements for chapter 6. Fire departments or organizations conducting an AFSC/TEB approved course must follow the requirements of the [Training Program Accreditation & Course Approval Manual](#). Courses are taught throughout Alaska in various locations.

FIREFIGHTER EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has developed a written examination test bank for each level of certification. The Firefighter I examination has a total of 100 questions; and the Firefighter II examination has a total of 100 questions. Questions from the test banks are referenced to NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, 2008 edition. Firefighter certification examinations are typically administered immediately following an approved course. For certificate issuance, written examinations must be completed with a score of 70% or higher. There is a two-hour time limit for the final written examination.

In cases where an individual is eligible to test, but is not testing with a group, examinations may be mailed to an approved AFSC Certifying Officer (CO) upon request. If a CO is not available in the local community, the AFSC office may authorize the exam to be mailed to an approved individual in the applicant's community. Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the [Certification Policy Manual](#). The examination must be completed within 30 days of receipt and returned to the AFSC office.

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For regions with reasonable access to TEB training centers, the TEB staff will proctor written examinations. Examinations **shall not** be sent to the individual taking the exam.

The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the applicant of final scores.

Firefighter Written Examination References

- a. NFPA 1001 Standard for Professional Firefighter Qualifications, 2008 edition
- b. Text (any one of the following)
 - IFSTA, *Essentials of Firefighting and Fire Department Operations* 5th Edition
 - Jones and Bartlett, *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills*, 2nd Edition
 - Delmar, *Firefighter's Handbook*, 3rd Edition

Firefighter Practical Skills Evaluation References

- a. NFPA 1001 Standard for Professional Firefighter Qualifications, 2008 edition
- b. Firefighter I/II Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets

RECIPROCITY

The AFSC can certify individuals for Firefighter I and II through reciprocity. Reciprocity is available to an individual who has completed his or her certification through an entity accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) or the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board (ProBoard). Reciprocity requirements for certification are as follow:

Firefighter I Reciprocity Requirements

1. applicant must provide an [Application for Certification](#) , and;
2. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
3. applicant must submit a copy of IFSAC or ProBoard Firefighter I certificate to the AFSC, and;
4. applicant must submit a copy of their IFSAC or ProBoard Hazardous Materials Operations certificate, or other documented written evidence of Haz Mat Ops certification from an IFSAC/ProBoard accredited entity, to the AFSC.

Firefighter II Reciprocity Requirements

1. applicant must provide an [Application for Certification](#) , and;
2. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
3. applicant must submit a copy of an IFSAC or ProBoard Firefighter II certificate to the AFSC, and;
4. applicant must submit a copy of an IFSAC or ProBoard Hazardous Materials Operations certificate, or other documented written evidence of Haz Mat Ops certification from an IFSAC/ProBoard accredited entity, to the AFSC.

Reciprocity applicants must meet all AFSC requirements for each level of certification.

EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

To initiate the equivalency challenge process, an individual must have documentation of completion of a firefighter training program. The AFSC will only accept Firefighter I or II equivalency challenge applicants if he or she is affiliated with an Alaska fire department or organization with an accredited firefighter training program for the level of the challenge request. All challenge requests must be coordinated through the fire department the

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individual is affiliated with. The fire department Training Officer/Accreditation Manager has the responsibility to verify the applicant meets the requirements for testing and must complete and sign-off a Firefighter Training Record before the applicant is eligible to complete an AFSC certification exam.

Applicants that have been endorsed by a Training Officer/Accreditation Manager can complete an approved firefighter examination locally, but a firefighter examination will not be scheduled for a single individual. If no test opportunity is possible locally, applicants can contact the AFSC office for information on other certification test sites.

A candidate **is not** permitted to attend a final exam at an alternate test site without the explicit preapproval of the AFSC office *and* the agency that is authorized for the exam. To test at a site other than his or her fire department, the challenge candidate must:

1. have permission from the agency that is scheduled to test
2. provide evidence of AFSC written approval to test
3. provide photo ID
4. provide a completed training record signed off by the candidate's Training Officer/Accreditation Manager
5. have a complete set of firefighter bunker gear (PPE) that meets NFPA standards
6. have a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that meets NFPA standards

BACKGROUND CHECKS

A background check is not required by the AFSC for certification as a Firefighter I or II.

RECERTIFICATION

AFSC Firefighter I or II certification does not expire. It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain knowledge and skill requirements after the certification examination is completed.

PREVIOUS ALASKA FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes all previous State of Alaska certifications issued for Firefighter I or II through the Division of Fire and Life Safety (formerly Division of Fire Prevention).

Due to ongoing changes with NFPA Firefighter certification standards, grandfather requests for IFSAC seals are limited. For individuals that received firefighter certification prior to initial State of Alaska IFSAC accreditation, the AFSC policy for "Grandfather" certification with an IFSAC seal will expire upon the adoption of the third NFPA standard revision after the individual's initial certification was issued.

This clause does not prohibit an individual that was certified in Alaska prior to 2001 from receiving an IFSAC seal. Individual IFSAC seal requests for a certificate issued three or more revisions ago will be required to successfully complete a current written and practical test before issuance of an IFSAC seal.

There is no grandfather option for ProBoard seals.